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# Stennis Plans Probe of CIA Spying, Laos

By JOSEPH VOLZ

Washington, July 20 (NEWS Bureau)—Sen. John C. Stennis (D-Miss.), chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, said today that he is launching a major investigation of Central Intelligence Agency activities, with particular emphasis on domestic spying and the secret war in Laos.

Stennis, still recuperating from gunshot wounds suffered in a holdup on Jan. 30, made his remarks in a letter as his committee reopened hearings into the nomination of veteran spy William E. Colby as CIA director. The acting chairman, Sen. Stuart Symington (D-Mo.), said Colby, who testified July 2, would be recalled following charges by his former CIA boss that he was "an uncontrollable agent who slanted intelligence."

## Described as Arrogant

Paul Swaka, who was chief for covert activity in Vietnam when Colby was Saigon station chief, testified that Colby permitted U.S. funds to be used in "rigging" the 1961 South Vietnamese election. Swaka also labeled Colby an "arrogant" agent who frequently ignored orders from home.

Symington, who previously predicted confirmation of Colby, now head of the agency's "dirty tricks" division, reopened the hearings at the request of Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.). Although sources close to Kennedy said it was too early to know if the senator would fight the nomination, Kennedy is anxious to find out more about Colby's role in the controversial Project Phoenix in which thousands of suspected Viet Cong were slain.

Kennedy also wants to know what role Colby played in providing CIA aid to the Watergate conspirators. CIA officials have conceded that they gave E. Howard Hunt, an ex-CIA agent, a wire tape recorder and false identification shortly before Hunt broke into the office of Daniel Ellsberg's psychiatrist.

## Called Chief Architect

At today's hearing, Rep. Robert Drinan (D-Mass.) called Colby the "chief architect" of Project Phoenix and argued that Colby must accept responsibility for "sweeping injustices done to thousands of Vietnamese."

Samuel Adams, a former CIA official who studied the Viet Cong for seven years, argued that Colby's Project Phoenix was "an example of a sound concept gone awry." He said that the CIA repeatedly failed to identify just how many Viet Cong agents had infiltrated the South Vietnamese government and, at one point, in 1969, underestimated by 29,000.

The Stennis investigation could be the most extensive look at the agency since it was founded in 1947.